

SIDI MAHOMET EL SENOUSST'S HOLY WAR.

THE MAHOMETAN MESSIAH.


LIKE A FORTIFIED CONVENT

The agents of the order at Alexandria are well known—moreover, it has its representatives at Constantinople and in France. To give one solitary instance of the activity of these agents, I may state that during the Commune one of the Senoussi stationed at Paris managed to purloin from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Quai d'Orsay, a document of a compromising nature, stamped with the seal of the chiefs of the Touareg of R'dames tribe, who, like most of the other Bedouin and desert tribes in Northern Africa and Arabia, rank among the most fervent adherents of the order. The administration of the affairs of the order is confided to four "wuzzeers" or ministers, living at Jerboub, and acting under the immediate direction of the grand master, who is supreme. The members of the order, whose names are carefully registered, owe absolute and unquestioning obedience to the mokkadem, i. e., the rector of the community or of the convent of the district. The mokkadem is, in his turn, subject to the agha, or Gnan, whose immediate superior is the vakil, or apostolic prefect of the province. Every member of the order becomes *ipso facto* a kind of missionary, who only awaits a sign from his chief to become a preacher.

THE INVITATION INTO THE ORDER.

The order was founded only sixty years ago, by an Algerian of the tribe of Medjaher, named Mahomet Ben Ali-es-Senoussi. At an early age he adopted the philosophical tenets of the Chad-

DOCTRINE OF THE CREED.



A SUDANESE SHEIKH.

venerated, but this veneration must cease immediately they die, and no pilgrimages to their tombs nor invocation of their names in prayer are permitted. The Prophet Mahomet is no exception to the rule, although admitted to have been the most perfect of humankind. Unquestioning obedience is strictly enjoined, and even the Sultan and all other chiefs of Mahometan States must conform to the precepts of Islamism as interpreted by the order, at the risk of hostility against them being declared as justified. All embroideries, gold or silver ornaments or jewelry are strictly forbidden in the case of men, but are permitted to women. Tobacco and coffee are likewise severely prohibited. Tea is allowed, but it must be sweetened with brown sugar, and not with white, for the

ONE OF THE MAHDI'S BODY-GUARD

DEVOTED TO THE SHEIKH SENOUSSI.

Certain it is that no more propitious moment
in all the last sixteen or twenty years could
have been selected for the proclamation of a
Holy War. What the immediate outcome or
ultimate result of the declaration of the Jihad is
likely to be, it is impossible as yet to predict.
But one thing may safely be taken for granted,
namely, that no matter how vast may be the
force and fanatical Dervish horde which may
be sent against the British Empire in the East,
on Cairo, either down the Nile or by the sea,
or dashes across the relatively narrow strip of desert
between Khartoum from Dongola, it will be
paralysed by the least of the perils that at the present
hour menace England, and incidentally civilization.
EX-ATTACHE.

A NEW USE FOR PINE NEEDLES.

A novel use has been found for the pine needles coming from the South. The stiff, slender spines are subjected to a chemical process which preserves their firmness, are dyed, and then used to make alpacetas for women's hats.

Large quantities of the scrub palmetto, the native grasses, pine boughs, tropical leaves, moss and other productions of the Southern woods are annually brought to New Orleans for decorative purposes. The scrub palmetto, which grows both in the marsh and in the sand, is not as handsome as the cultivated palm, but is luxuriant and green, and can be mixed in with other foliage to good effect. A good deal of it goes to Germany, where it is treated according to the system used there, and comes back in the guise of the "prepared plant." Certain qualities inherent in the scrub palm make it peculiarly susceptible to the treatment, and these prepared plants are certainly an improvement on the entirely artificial substitute which sometimes in the florists' windows of the East Side of New Orleans, who might save the expense, sometimes appear to derive pleasure from the possession of these lifeless imitations of nature.

But the scrub palmetto is not green to begin with, and even when the off-shoots and curving sprays too stark and unyielding to bear much resemblance to their living prototypes.

RESTORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
VIRGINIA ROTUNDA.

Charlottesville, Va., March 28 (Special).—The plans for the restoration of the rotunda of the University of Virginia and the erection of the new buildings have been completed and accepted, and the architects, Messrs. McKim, Mead & White, of New-York City, are now at work upon the drawings for the details and specifications. The contracts will be let in a short time, and the work pushed to completion as rapidly as possible.

Reasons of sentiment would point to the restoration of the interior exactly as it stood, but the Board of Visitors, knowing that Jefferson's reason for dividing the rotunda into two stories was only one of practical necessity, has adopted the recommendation of the architects of throwing the interior from the portico floor to the dome into a single room, the duplicate of the interior of the great original; while the exterior will be replaced as Jefferson constructed it. This room will be the library, the large capacity of which will meet the needs of the university for many years. A circle of columns will support the gallery, about twenty-five feet from the floor, and the space outside this circle is subdivided into alcoves. On the gallery there is another circle of alcoves, and in the eaving of the dome there will be obtained a fifth set.

On the eastern side of the court will stand the physical laboratory, to be erected mainly from the gift of Charles Broadway Rouss, of New-York City, and to be called the Rouss Physical Laboratory. It will contain a large amphitheatrical lecture hall, apparatus-room, a general

laboratory for junior students, smaller special laboratories for advanced students, a room for constant temperature experiments, a room for optical work, and a tower for pendulum operations and various other delicate physical experiments. In the basement there will be space for the workshop, motors, dynamos, and so on. On the west side will stand the mechanical laboratory, on the first floor of which will be found the drawing-room, the electrical laboratory and two lecture-rooms; and on the second floor the workshop for the construction of apparatus for work in wood and iron, and the laboratory for experimental work in civil and mechanical engineering. In an annex sufficiently removed from the main building, so as not to disturb the boilers, foundries and forges, and rooms for fuel and supplies, the façades of the three buildings surrounding the new court are of pure classical style, and the buildings are so arranged that they appear to harmonize as perfectly as possible with the existing system originated by Jefferson. The character of the land on the southern side of the lawn allows the academical and the physical and mechanical buildings to be placed on the same level, and on account of the steep grade they actually come for practical purposes as one. The charm of the present close and the domination of the rotunda are therefore preserved, yet at the same time the steps will be so arranged that a spectator standing at the foot of the rotunda steps will see the façade of the Academic Building complete from the base of the columns to the top of the pediment, and yet at the same time the height of the buildings will not be such as to close in the

About \$250,000 will be spent on the new buildings alone, and by September next the University of Virginia will be more liberally and amply fitted for its work than it has been in the past. All friends of learning must rejoice that this foundation of Jefferson is to rise again so promptly into full vigor and activity, and there is no doubt that persons of generous mind and ample means will seek from time to time to extend this monument to a great American statesman.

A CIRCULATING GALLERY WHICH ADDS
BRIGHTNESS TO MANY A HOME.

"Of all the nationalities that form the membership, the Italians are the most genuinely appreciative," said the woman in charge. "They seem to love the pictures for their own sake, and I am often asked to save such and such a picture for a particular member in case he or she should not be here early enough on the evening of distribution to secure it. Some of the pictures are prime favorites and those who come earliest get first choice. The membership fee of 10 cents is charged, and the picture selected is either exchanged or renewed at the end of two weeks. If a man round to the different homes to collect the pictures on the morning the pictures two weeks expire; that plan insures their all being here at the same time for distribution. If the members returned them themselves as they take them away they would straggle in at all times during the evening, and there would be no complete list to choose from for fresh distribution."

and demand shows an old weather-beaten man and a young eager boy. The boy has hook and eyes, and the old man, with a restraining hand on the boy's shoulder, and the picture conveys the lesson of patience better than any amount of preaching could do.

"These people lead busy lives; they have no time to read, and but little inclination to do so if they had the time. A picture on the bare walls of their shabby rooms, where every other object represents only the squalid fight for existence, gives them a glimpse of the life that is passing so busily rudely by. The wife had to sit down for a moment to nurse the baby or peel potatoes, or to perform some other domestic task; her eyes stray to the picture and she gets to thinking about it. Even the children who come here to our sewing classes and other affairs talk about the pictures; this shows that the entire family take an interest in them. A patient, industrious, and kind hearted woman, who can be so good to the ideas of the ignorant in a short time by proper influences. A little child lived in a poor, comfortable home; the room where the tiny coffin lay was absolutely bare and forlorn; a mission worker took a picture, one of Fra Angelico's angels, and asked the mother if she objected to the picture's being hung on the wall. She answered no, and the visitor felt better at seeing the little child's picture in the grimy old room. Some time after calling on the mother called at the mission and asked if she could buy that picture. She said all the people in the neighborhood would like to see it, and that she liked it so much she wanted to keep it in memory of her little girl."

"I will buy it, too," she said, "and I want something to keep as a memorial, and hung up the coffin plate and a wire wreath to remember him by, but I like this picture of the angel much

"We were all so glad to note the wonderful change in her taste, which her resolve to buy the pictures had effected. She had been so long, so long, so long, revolting, associating the image of the lost little one with what was earthly and perishable; the angel made her feel that she was wrong."

"We have repeated evidence of the good work our circulating gallery is doing and realize more and more each day that we are doing the right thing. We have something better, something better, something better. The 'Angelus' and Raphael's 'St. Margaret' are great favorites, and I have told the story of the 'Angelus' to many a listener. All seem so interested that we have decided to write a brief sketch of each picture plainly on the back of it so that the members of the gallery may study it at

A LESSON IN NATURAL HISTORY.

From The Kansas City Star.

A gilded steer above the cupola on the Exchange Building at the stockyards tells the cattlemen which way the wind blows. It is a work of art and is much admired, and yet it remains a contradiction to the belief that cattlemen are observers of the habits of the cattle.

What does a steer do when the wind blows hard? "An old plains cattlemen was asked.

"He turns his tail to the wind, humps his back and wags his tail," answered the plainsman.

"There's a steer that doesn't," said his questioner, pointing to the gilded steer on the cupola, which faced a southerly-an' your wind, disregarding the well-known habit of his kind.

"Well, if that ain't so I'll be beat," said the old cattlemen. "It's just like the market, goes by contraries. Perhaps that's why it takes the wind. But I guess none here likely they let the wind blow over their heads. I guess they can't see a steer and never was out of the city."

Down in the yards the wind blew from the north, and the gilded steer turned and its back to the wind, and stood humped up, placidly chewing its cud.

The pictures of plains cattle in a storm by Frederic Remington all show the cattle with heads away from the wind, and plainsmen aware to the correctness of Remington's pictures. To be consistent, the gilded steer should be turned so that the wind blows in the ears of his brethren on the plains and in the pens of the stock yards. As it is he is an annoyance to many of the cattlemen at the yards, who are consistent in not looking at him.

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FROM THE WESTERN LITERARY CENTRE.

From The Chicago Tribune.

Charles Lamb was known to his reading contemporaries as "Elia." Given to the present day as "Elia," the name "Elia's Essays" were written by a person of that name.

FLORISTS WILL BE BUSY ALL THIS WEEK

SAGE BOUQUETS PLENTIFUL

As midsummer is to the purveyor of ice, midwinter to the furrier and Christmas to the toy dealer, so is Easter to the florist, the harvest time of the whole year. A decade ago it was only in the churches that the spring blossoms held carnival, clustered about the altar in token of gladness and rejoicing. To-day every home has its significant Easter garland of narcissus, and every man, woman and child

season. So great is the floral emblem typical of the season, if you will, that the florists work for two entire nights and days previous to the momentous Sunday, and preparations are made by the grower looking to the supply of this demand. The flowers, before, are put in the water, and cut flowers by the thousands must be artistically grouped, put up and addressed, the thousands of growing, blossoming plants must be tied up and protected, so that transportation will not jostle their delicate blooms, and, when Easter morning is dawning over the city and devoted church members are rising so as to be on hand to put the final touch to the Easter bouquet, the ladies and their assistants are just going by the bus having commissioned the van drivers to distribute their lovely freight. "We deliver hundreds of plants—geraniums, heliotropes, tulips and jonquills—on the east side of town," said a fashionable Fifth-ave. florist. "It is not uncommon for a single customer to order 500 or more of one kind of plants during the week before Easter, to be delivered the next day, to worthy people whom he wishes to please. As for social offerings there never was a time when flowers were so liberally used. Every member of the family is remembered—even the mothers-in-law, the grandmothers and the babies in the cradle. The long procession up and down the city streets, on Easter, and you will see scarcely a woman or a girl without a corsage bouquet, and hardly a man or boy whose coat lapel does not boast a blossom.

Then there is the long array of window plants on the fashionable streets. All those must be looked out for, and no matter how vigorous and healthy a plant may be it must have a bloom on it for Easter or it is a failure. All this rage for flowering flowers has come about in the last few years. We have got plant-growing to be done days down to such a science that we can tell all the very day that the flower will open. If it is a lily, for instance, gives promise of opening too early we put it in a room that is dark and cold, that will keep it back. If it seems likely to bloom later than is wanted, we give it a sunny exposure for a certain number of hours or days. By watching the plants carefully, and shifting them from one condition to another, we generally manage to have the blooms just at the desired time. That magnificent azalea, for instance, I don't want to use for two weeks; if I leave it where it is it will open in four days, but fortunately there is such a thing as putting it where it will stand in statu quo and neither advance nor recede until released from those

"It takes four years for a lily bulb to grow large and mature enough to produce its full quota of flowers, and it takes two years to grow a lily bulb at all fit for transportation.

"Yes, Bermuda is the ideal climate for lily growing; in fact, for all bulb growing. Holland, the great bulb-exporting country, is practically exhausted now, and a fortune awaits the man or woman who will introduce glass houses in Bermuda and go regularly into the flower-growing business as it is conducted in New-York. The soil there just suits for the purpose, and the sun shines with such persistent power that hothouses could be kept at an even or a high temperature without the aid of artificial heat, and at a nominal expense compared with Holland.

"The Tulips grow profusely in Bermuda. Here judiciously managed is our prime factor; those dwarf French lilacs so much admired can be forced in twenty days to bloom luxuriantly.

"What is it that is so popularly the azalea, then the more choice specimens of hydrangea and zesta. Spirea, too, is a favorite, and the Roman hyacinths and all the bulbous plants."

"Callias? Yes, they are stately and pure-looking."

"Twelve Annunciation lilies are used. The callia is called for. The rose is the best in the garden, and the carnation for the cathedral; they are seldom in demand for window plants, unless by some old-fashioned dame who likes one style of flowers."

"By-the-way, a change has taken place in the management of church decoration. A subscription was formerly taken up for the Easter flowers, and some artistic spirit in the congregation devised the mode of arrangement, or vase and floral display. It has now become an almost universal custom in wealthy congregations for individual members to send distinct contributions to the church on Easter eve, all of these being growing, blooming plants, accompanied by the giver's card, intimating what the church is over. Sometimes it is sent to a hospital or again to the home of some needy friend, who is then asked to bring it to church. The flowers are for the interested givers to meet just before Easter and stipulate what they intend to send, so that the church may be supplied with a rack of certain plants and loose flowers."

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WHY THE PILLAR SMILED.

From The Louisville Commercial.

A minister in charge of a country congregation not long ago received a call to a pulpit in Louisville, and on the next day he appeared in ecclesiastical circles, and took time to deliberate, saying that he must pray for light. In the course of a few days the minister's youngest son came to the city on a visit, and the day after the arrival of the principal pillars of the church of which his father had been asked to take charge. The pillar smiled benevolently, and asked:—

"Well, Johnnie, have you your father decided yet whether he will come with us?"

"Well, sir," answered Johnnie, "I believe your father is still hesitating for light, but most of the things are packed."

And then the pillar smiled the smile of a pillar who has just performed in inviting ministers to leave poor for better churches.

BICYCLES AND MAD DOGS.

From The London Standard.

Another use has been found for the bicycle. On one of the outer boulevards a cyclist recently perceived a policeman driving a cart and urging on the horse at a gallop. The gentleman in the comfortable wheeled man was told that he was endeavoring to overtake a rabid dog which had got ahead of him. The cyclist, in great gentleness, and as the policeman hastily mounted his machine and sped away in pursuit of the enraged animal. On coming up to the dog, the cyclist, with great much applauded and had the satisfaction of running the creature through with his weapon, killing it on the spot. The cyclist then the crowd that had been attracted by so unexpected a sight.

